

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft US Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I support the settlement of the Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. While your office primarily seems concerned with Microsoft's impact within the technology industry. I feel that it is important to consider their role in our overall economy, which has slowed considerably in the past few years.

Aside from the economy slowing, the U.S. still retains a large surplus in exporting software. Microsoft is a leader in that market, and why mess with a good thing? As a small-scale software developer, I appreciate the standard platform that Microsoft has created. Many average PC users probably do as well. It simplifies all of our lives.

The changes Microsoft is making in the settlement are reasonable and favorable to its competition. Easing its bundling and exclusivity pacts with computer makers will immediately open the door wider for other companies to market their software. Because that is the government's main contention with Microsoft, the company's endorsement of the settlement should leave you with no reason not to finalize it.

Sincerely,

Everett Joline